



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/686,642	10/17/2003	Gunther Stuhc	08516.0002-00	8997
22852	7590	05/09/2008		
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413			EXAMINER CHONG CRUZ, NADJA N	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			4143	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			05/09/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/686,642

Applicant(s)

STUHEC, GUNTHER

Examiner

NADJA CHONG CRUZ

Art Unit

4143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 25 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 October 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S5108)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. This action is in reply to the application filed on 17 October 2003.
2. Claims 1 – 32 are currently pending and have been examined.

Priority

3. Applicant's claim for the benefit of a prior-filed application, Application No. 10/686642, under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) or under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121, or 365(c) is acknowledged.

Drawings

4. The drawings are objected to because **Figures 9 – 10 do not include any reference character(s)**. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

Art Unit: 4143

If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

5. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: **Figure 9, references 330/550**. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.
6. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: **Figure 12, reference characters: 981 and 982**. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

7. In addition to Replacement Sheets containing the corrected drawing figure(s), applicant is required to submit a marked-up copy of each Replacement Sheet including annotations indicating the changes made to the previous version. The marked-up copy must be clearly labeled as "Annotated Sheets" and must be presented in the amendment or remarks section that explains the change(s) to the drawings. See 37 CFR 1.121(d)(1). Failure to timely submit the proposed drawing and marked-up copy will result in the abandonment of the application.

Specification

8. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Figures 9 – 10 do not include any reference character(s). Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

9. Claims 1 and 25 are objected to because of the following informalities: it appears to be a parenthesis (") after *repository*. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

10. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
11. Claims 1-2, 6-7, 10, 13, 15-19, 22, 25, 28-29 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

12. Claims 1, 2 and 25 recites the limitation *the second computer*. Claim 6 recites the limitation *the group*. Claim 7 recites the limitation *the back-end of a client/server application*. Claims 10, 13, 16 and 28-29 recites the limitation *the user*. Claims 15 and 31 recites the limitation *the downloaded schema*. Claim 16 recites the limitation *the schema*. Claim 17 recites the limitations *the current status and the sequence*. Claims 18 and 31 recites the limitations *the arrival of documents*. Claims 19 and 22 recites the limitations *the communication format*. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claims.
13. As per Claim 7 recites *[t]he computer program product of claim 7*. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claims. For the purposes of this examination, *[t]he computer program product of claim 7* will be interpreted as *[t]he computer program product of claim 1*. Appropriate correction is required.
14. As per Claim 22 recites *[t]he method of claim 22*. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claims. For the purposes of this examination, *[t]he method of claim 22* will be interpreted as *[t]he method of claim 21*. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

15. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:
- Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.
16. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. As recited, claims 1-20 are directed toward *a computer program*. However, under the current guidelines of 35 USC 101, computer software must be tangibly embodied on a computer readable medium, and, when executed by a computer processor, perform the steps of the software. In their broadest reasonable interpretation and in light of the specification, claims 1-20, as recited, can be interpreted to be embodied on abstract mediums

Art Unit: 4143

such as carrier waves and signals, and therefore not eligible for patent protection. Accordingly, claims 1-20 are not eligible for patent protection.

17. Claim 5 is directed to non-functional descriptive material because this claim is a list of how particular terms of previous claims may be defined. Non-functional descriptive material is not patentable subject matter under 35 U.S.C. 101 because it is neither statutory subject matter nor does it produce a useful, concrete or tangible result. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, see *in re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 44(Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ 2d 1031(Fed. Cir. 1994).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

18. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

19. Claims 1-8, 10-11, 13-18, 20-21 and 23-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nielsen et al; **B2B Collaborative Commerce with Sametime, QuickPlace and WebSphere Commerce Suite**, *IBM International Technical Support Organization*, International Business Machine Corporation; August 2001; 274 pages; ibm.com/redbooks, hereinafter "Nielsen".

Examiner's Note: The Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior art of record within the body of this action for the convenience of the Applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply. Applicant, in preparing the response, should consider fully the entire reference as potentially teaching all or

part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

Claims 1 and 25:

Nielsen as shown discloses the following limitations:

- *a communication module to support communication between the first computer and a second computer* (see at least Figure 34 which it illustrates a Collaborative commerce application topology and Figure 98, which it illustrates a Transactional Commerce Application Topology where lines shows the communication between components and Appendix B, Nodes in the application topology, B.1.1 Web application server node, which teaches that it supports "access to both public and user-specific information" and "the node provides robust services to allow users to communicate with shared applications and databases". Nielsen suggests that in a collaborative and transactional commerce application exist a communication between a server (e.g., first computer) and users or clients (e.g., second computer) in order to create a collaborative commerce solution);
- *and a schema module to load a business schema from a central repository*) (see at least Figure 34, which it illustrates a Collaborative commerce application topology and Appendix B, Nodes in the application topology, B.1.6 Database server node, which teaches that "[t]he database server node's function is to provide a persistent data storage and retrieval service in support of the user-to-business transactional interaction" where business schemas are stored and retrieved);
- *the business schema being a predefined sequence of business transactions combined with documents that are assigned to the business transactions* (see at least Figure 34, which it illustrates a Collaborative commerce application topology, Chapter 1, Introduction to collaborative commerce, 1.1.4 The Lotus vision for e-business collaboration 3rd ¶ and 1.2.3 Lotus Quick Place 1st and 2nd ¶: which

teaches that "...reliable **Business Transactions**, which include financial transactions and the resulting updates to back-end systems for order management, billing, and inventory management". Nielsen suggests that the business transactions are combined with documents because users "share and organize ideas, review documents, and collaborate on any kind of project or ad hoc initiative" with integrated services "project management tools, Office 2000 integration and integrated workflow.");

- *wherein the business schema provides a predefined communication format applied to the documents* (see at least Chapter 2, A B2B scenario, 2.3.3 Illustrating the scenario with our implementation, 12th ¶ and Chapter 7, WebSphere Commerce Suite Integration, 7.2.0.1 IBM Net. Data; which teaches that "[t]he list of available pages in the catalog and elsewhere on the TECKRAFT site is delivered from WCS in XML format and then formatted in the agent application" and "Generation part contains HTML or XML blocks that contain statements that specify the layout of the generated document" where Nielsen suggests that XML format is applied to the documents);
- *wherein the communication format enables the first computer to participate in electronic business with the second computer* (see at least Figure 34 which it illustrates a Collaborative commerce application topology and Figure 98, which it illustrates a Transactional Commerce Application Topology where lines shows the electronic business communication between servers and users or clients);

Claim 2:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claim 1, as shown above. Furthermore, Nielsen as shown discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the second computer is under control of a second computer program that has substantially the same functions as the first program* (see at least Chapter 1,

Introduction to Collaborative Commerce, 1.2.2 Lotus Sametime 1st – 2nd ¶ and Figure 5: which teaches that “[l]otus Sametime” offers “a customizable, standards-based platform for instant awareness, real-time communication (chat) and online meetings with application sharing and whiteboarding capabilities” where “enables users to share live documents, applications, and a whiteboard; for example, a seller can share a spreadsheet with a buyer”. Nielsen suggests that a second computer (e.g. a buyer computer) is using the same program functions as the first computer as shown in Figure 5, which it illustrates a real-time video conferencing);

Claim 3:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claim 2, as shown above. Furthermore, Nielsen as shown discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the communication module supports communication with a third computer under control of a third computer program being a business application, and wherein the predefined communication format provided by the business schema enables the first computer to participate in electronic business with the third computer (see at least Chapter 1, Introduction to Collaborative Commerce, 1.2.2 Lotus Sametime 1st – 2nd ¶ and Figure 5: which teaches that “[l]otus Sametime” offers “a customizable, standards-based platform for instant awareness, real-time communication (chat) and online meetings with application sharing and whiteboarding capabilities” where “enables users to share live documents, applications, and a whiteboard; for example, a seller can share a spreadsheet with a buyer”. Nielsen suggests that a user or client (e.g. a second or third computers) are using the same program functions as the first computer as shown in Figure 5, which it illustrates a real-time video conferencing);*

Art Unit: 4143

Claim 4:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claim 3, as shown above. Furthermore, Nielsen as shown discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the communication module forwards the documents to the second computer and to the third computer for interpreting and processing by the second and third computer programs, respectively* (see at least Chapter 1, Introduction to Collaborative Commerce, 1.2.2 Lotus Sametime 1st – 2nd ¶¶ and Figure 5: which teaches that "[l]otus Sametime" offers "a customizable, standards-based platform for instant awareness, real-time communication (chat) and online meetings with application sharing and whiteboarding capabilities" where "enables users to share live documents, applications, and a whiteboard; for example, a seller can share a spreadsheet with a buyer". Nielsen suggests that in a collaborative electronic business application, a user computer interprets and process the documents that are sent through the collaborative environment);

Claim 5:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claim 1, as shown above. Furthermore, Nielsen as shown discloses the following limitation:

- *adapted to be operated on the first computer being a personal computer* (see at least Appendix B, Nodes in the application topology B.1.4 User node: which teaches that "[t]he user node is most frequently a personal computing device (PC, etc.)" where Nielsen suggests that computers are adapted to operate a computer program in a personal computing device");

Claim 6:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claim 1, as shown above. Furthermore, Nielsen as shown discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the communication module is adapted to use program resources on the first computer that are selected from the group of: word processing tools (see at least Chapter 1, Introduction to Collaborative commerce, 1.2.3 Lotus QuickPlace 2nd ¶; which teaches that "[q]uickPlace offers a full spectrum of integrated services for team collaboration, including project management tools, Office 2000 integration and integrated workflow");*
- *email tool (see at least Chapter 6, QuickPlace development, 6.6.2 The Domino database: Nielsen teaches that the Domino database was developed with Lotus Notes, which is a well know email tool);*
- *browser tool (see at least Chapter 6, QuickPlace development, 6.1 Why QuickPlace: which teaches that it has "browser-based access");*
- *and graphic user interface tool (see at least Figures 11-32, which they illustrates a graphic user interface tools);*

Claim 7:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claim 1, as shown above. Furthermore, Nielsen as shown discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the communication module is adapted to support communication with a business application being the back-end of a client/server application (see at least Chapter 1, Introduction to Collaborative commerce, 1.3.1 How Lotus adds value in collaborative product design, 4th ¶; which teaches that "[d]omino simplifies design collaboration in a variety of ways. Built-in workflow can be used to route design specifications to the appropriate team members, for example. Lotus' document management product Domino.Doc offers a robust, integrated document management repository. Domino tools for connectivity to enterprise data stores enable rapid integration with back-end ERP systems." Nielsen suggests that*

Domino server tools are adapted to support communication being the back-end as shown in Figure 34);

Claim 8:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claim 1, as shown above. Furthermore, Nielsen as shown discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the communication module supports communication with the business application being an ERP system* (see at least Chapter 1, Introduction to Collaborative commerce, 1.3.1 How Lotus adds value in collaborative product design, 4th ¶: which teaches that "[d]omino tools for connectivity to enterprise data stores enable rapid integration with back-end ERP systems.");

Claim 10:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claim 1, as shown above. Furthermore, Nielsen as shown discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the schema module provides a selection mask to the user of the first computer to select a context for identifying documents and transactions* (see at least Chapter 8, Sametime Development, 8.8.1 Knowing when your buyers are logged in, 8.8.1.1 Considerations for using the Sametime Connect client, last ¶: which teaches that "to add a filter, so the sales representative only sees the buyers he or she is associated with" where Nielsen suggests that the user selects which buyers are associate with him or her, which it is implicitly disclosed by using a selection mask, which is well known in the art as a filter that selectively includes or excludes certain values, a user selects different context regarding his or her needs);

Claim 11:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claim 10, as shown above. Furthermore, Nielsen as shown discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the context is selected from the group of: business process, product classification, industry classification, geopolitical, official constraints, business process role, supporting role, and system capabilities* (see at least Figures 7 which it illustrates a business process context (e.g., Create a requisition lists, Issue an order) and product classification context (e.g., Browse the catalog of power tools));

Claim 13:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claim 1, as shown above. Furthermore, Nielsen as shown discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein a service module combines input received from the user of the program with data from the repository to generate data that goes into the business document* (see at least Chapter 7, WebSphere Commerce Suite integration, 7.2.01 IBM Net.Data, 3rd ¶; which teaches that "Net.Data interprets to create dynamic Web pages with customized content based on input from the user, the current state of your databases, other data sources" and "existing business logic" and Figures 73-74, which they illustrates where a user inputs data and generates a welcome page with related business document);

Claims 14 and 30:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claims 13 and 29, as shown above and below, respectively. Furthermore, Nielsen as shown discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the service module cooperates with the schema module to forward business documents with input data into the repository* (see at least Figure 7 which it illustrates an example of transactional B2B Web site and Chapter 2, B2B scenario, 2.1 The initial TECKRAFT B2B Web site: which Figure 7 illustrates data and operations related to a business where a user can browse the catalog of power tools, create requisition lists (e.g., user inputs), issue an order (or reorder) and see

status of current orders. Nielsen suggests that when a user issue an order or create a requisition lists, these document are forwarded into the repository);

Claims 15 and 31:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claims 13 and 29, as shown above and below respectively. Furthermore, Nielsen as shown discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the service module stores the downloaded schema locally on the first computer* (see at least Figure 34, which it illustrates a Collaborative commerce application topology and Appendix B, Nodes in the application topology, B.1.6 Database server node, which teaches that "[t]he database server node's function is to provide a persistent data storage and retrieval service in support of the user-to-business transactional interaction". Furthermore, "[t]he data stored is relevant to the specific business interaction (for example, bank balance, insurance information, and current purchase by the user)" where downloaded schema are stored);

Claim 16:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claim 13, as shown above. Furthermore, Nielsen as shown discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the service module modifies the schema in cooperation with the user of the first computer* (see at least Chapter 7, WebSphere Commerce Suite integration, 7.2.01 IBM Net.Data, 3rd ¶: which teaches that "Net.Data interprets to create dynamic Web pages with customized content based on input from the user, the current state of your databases, other data sources" and "existing business logic" and Figures 73-74, which they illustrates where a user inputs data and generates a welcome page with related business document where the user modify it for example by creating a new requisition list);

Claim 17:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claim 13, as shown above. Furthermore, Nielsen as shown discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the service module uses graphic representations on an output device of the first computer to show the current status in the sequence of the business schema and to modify the sequence* (see at least Figure 7 which it illustrates a graphical example of transactional B2B Web site, Figure 11, which it illustrates "Your Requisition List(s) and Chapter 2, B2B scenario, 2.1 The initial TECKRAFT B2B Web site: which Figure 7 illustrates data and operations related to a business where a user can browse the catalog of power tools, create requisition lists (e.g., user inputs), issue an order (or reorder) and see status of current orders. Nielsen suggests that in Figure 7 shows a link to see a status of current orders (e.g., a sequence of the business schema) in "View order status", therefore a user can reorder (e.g., modify the sequence) creating a new requisition list);

Claims 18 and 32:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claims 1 and 29, as shown above and below, respectively. Furthermore, Nielsen as shown discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the service module indicates the arrival of documents to the first computer and opens the documents in the layout that has been defined by the sender of the documents* (see at least Chapter 1, Introduction to collaborative commerce, 1.2.2 Lotus Sametime, 2nd ¶¶ and 1.2.3 Lotus Quick Place 1st and 2nd ¶¶: which teaches that "Sametime also enables users to share live documents, applications, and a whiteboard; for example, a seller can share a spreadsheet with a buyer" and Figure 5 which it illustrates a Real-time video conferencing using Sametime. Nielsen suggests that it is implicitly disclosed that when a sender share a live document to a user, he or she will receive an alert that a document has arrived and it will open in

the layout and format previously defined by the sender such as "project management tools, Office 2000 integration and integrated workflow.");

Claim 20:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claim 1, as shown above. Furthermore, Nielsen as shown discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein layout data of documents and business data of documents are separated* (see at least Chapter 7, WebSphere Commerce Suite integration, 7.2.01 IBM Net.Data: which teaches that "[n]et.Data is a macro processor that executes as middleware on a Web server machine. You can write Net.Data application programs, called *macros*, which Net.Data interprets to create dynamic Web pages with customized content based on input from the user, the current state of your databases, other data sources, existing business logic, and other factors that you design into your macro" where Nielsen suggests that by using Net.Data a layout data of documents are creating as dynamic Web pages and the business data of documents are separated in a database. Furthermore, see at least 7.2.0.3 Welcome page customized macro on page 129, Nielsen teaches a cascading style sheet, "<style type='text/css'>" which is well know in the art that cascading style sheet (CSS) is used to help readers of web pages to define colors, fonts, layout, and other aspects of document presentation. Therefore enables the separation of document content from document presentation.);

Claim 21:

Nielsen as shown discloses the following limitations:

- *loading a business schema from a central repository to the first computer* (see at least Figure 34, which it illustrates a Collaborative commerce application topology and Appendix B, Nodes in the application topology, B.1.6 Database server node, which teaches that "[t]he database server node's function is to provide a persistent

data storage and retrieval service in support of the user-to-business transactional interaction" where business schemas are stored and retrieved);

- *as a predefined sequence of business transactions and documents in electronic business that the first computer performs with the second computer and with the third computer* (see at least Figure 34, which it illustrates a collaborative commerce application topology, Chapter 1, Introduction to collaborative commerce, 1.1.4 The Lotus vision for e-business collaboration 3rd ¶ and 1.2.3 Lotus Quick Place 1st and 2nd ¶: which teaches that "...reliable **Business Transactions**, which include financial transactions and the resulting updates to back-end systems for order management, billing, and inventory management". Nielsen suggests that in a e-business collaborative environment more than one computers can participate and the business transactions are combined with documents because users "share and organize ideas, review documents, and collaborate on any kind of project or ad hoc initiative" with integrated services "project management tools, Office 2000 integration and integrated workflow.");
- *wherein the sequence has a predefined format that is used by the second computer and by the third computer; and communicating according to the business schema between the computers, wherein a program on the first computer interacts with a second program on the second computer and interacts with a business application on a third computer* (see at least Figure 5, which it illustrates a real-time video conferencing, where Nielsen suggests that this predefined format enables business communication between computers in a collaborative environment as shown in Figure 34 which it illustrates a Collaborative commerce application topology and Figure 98, which it illustrates a Transactional Commerce Application Topology where lines shows the electronic business communication between servers and users or clients);

Claim 23:

Nielsen as shown discloses the following limitations:

- *the system comprising first and second computers interconnected and communicating through a network, the first and second computers being controlled by first and second programs, respectively, and network interfaces for communicating through the network* (see at least Figure 34, which it illustrates a Collaborative commerce application topology, Figure 98 which it illustrates a Transactional commerce application topology and Appendix B, Nodes in the application topology, B.1.1 Web application server node, B.1.4 User node and B.1.10 Application and data nodes: which teaches that computers are interconnected and communicated through a network as shown in Figure 98, where the web application "node provides robust services to allow users to communicate with shared applications and databases. In this way it acts as an interface to business functions, such as banking, lending, and HR systems". Furthermore, "[e]xisting applications are run and maintained on nodes that are installed in the internal network");
- *wherein the first computer includes a display for displaying data and operations related to the business and a user input for allowing a user of the first computer to provide data input for executing the business* (see at least Figure 7 which it illustrates an example of transactional B2B Web site and Chapter 2, B2B scenario, 2.1 The initial TECKRAFT B2B Web site: which Figure 7 illustrates data and operations related to a business where a user can browse the catalog of power tools, create requisition lists (e.g., user inputs), issue an order (or reorder) and see status of current orders);
- *and further wherein the first computer, as part of the first program includes a schema module to load a business schema from a central repository* (see at least

Figure 34, which it illustrates a Collaborative commerce application topology and Appendix B, Nodes in the application topology, B.1.6 Database server node, which teaches that "[t]he database server node's function is to provide a persistent data storage and retrieval service in support of the user-to-business transactional interaction" where business schemas are stored and retrieved);

- *the business schema being a predefined sequence of business transactions combined with documents that are assigned to the business transactions* (see at least Figure 34, which it illustrates a collaborative commerce application topology, Chapter 1, Introduction to collaborative commerce, 1.1.4 The Lotus vision for e-business collaboration 3rd ¶¶ and 1.2.3 Lotus Quick Place 1st and 2nd ¶¶: which teaches that "...reliable **Business Transactions**, which include financial transactions and the resulting updates to back-end systems for order management, billing, and inventory management". Nielsen suggests that the business transactions are combined with documents because users "share and organize ideas, review documents, and collaborate on any kind of project or ad hoc initiative" with integrated services "project management tools, Office 2000 integration and integrated workflow.");
- *wherein the business schema uses a predefined format that enables business communication between the first and second computers* (see at least Figure 5, which it illustrates a real-time video conferencing, where Nielsen suggests that this predefined format enables business communication between computers, Figure 34 which it illustrates a Collaborative commerce application topology and Figure 98, which it illustrates a Transactional Commerce Application Topology where lines shows the electronic business communication between servers and users or clients);

Claim 24:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claim 23, as shown above. Furthermore, Nielsen as shown discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the second program on the second computer has a schema module with features that are substantially equivalent to the schema module of the first program (see at least Chapter 1, Introduction to Collaborative Commerce, 1.2.2 Lotus Sametime 1st – 2nd) and Figure 5: which teaches that "[l]otus Sametime" offers "a customizable, standards-based platform for instant awareness, real-time communication (chat) and online meetings with application sharing and whiteboarding capabilities" where "enables users to share live documents, applications, and a whiteboard; for example, a seller can share a spreadsheet with a buyer". Nielsen suggests that a second computer (e.g. a buyer computer) is using the same program functions as the first computer as shown in Figure 5, which it illustrates a real-time video conferencing);*

Claim 26:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claim 25, as shown above. Furthermore, Nielsen as shown discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the communication module is operated to support communication with a third computer under control of a business application, and wherein the predefined communication format provided by the business schema enables the first computer to participate in electronic business with the third computer (see at least Chapter 1, Introduction to Collaborative Commerce, 1.2.2 Lotus Sametime 1st – 2nd) and Figure 5: which teaches that "[l]otus Sametime" offers "a customizable, standards-based platform for instant awareness, real-time communication (chat) and online meetings with application sharing and whiteboarding capabilities" where "enables users to share live documents, applications, and a whiteboard; for example, a seller*

can share a spreadsheet with a buyer". Nielsen suggests that a user or client (e.g. a second or third computers) are using the same program functions as the first computer as shown in Figure 5, which it illustrates a real-time video conferencing);

Claim 27:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claim 26, as shown above. Furthermore, Nielsen as shown discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein the communication module is operated to forward the documents to the second computer and to the third computer for interpreting and processing (see at least Chapter 1, Introduction to Collaborative Commerce, 1.2.2 Lotus Sametime 1st – 2nd ¶ and Figure 5: which teaches that "[l]otus Sametime" offers "a customizable, standards-based platform for instant awareness, real-time communication (chat) and online meetings with application sharing and whiteboarding capabilities" where "enables users to share live documents, applications, and a whiteboard; for example, a seller can share a spreadsheet with a buyer". Nielsen suggests that in a collaborative electronic business application, a user computer interprets and process the documents that are sent thought the collaborative environment);*

Claim 28:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claim 25, as shown above. Furthermore, Nielsen as shown discloses the following limitation:

- *wherein operating the schema module includes providing a selection mask to the user of the first computer to select a context for identifying documents and transactions (see at least Chapter 8, Sametime Development, 8.8.1 Knowing when your buyers are logged in, 8.8.1.1 Considerations for using the Sametime Connect client, last ¶; which teaches that "to add a filter, so the sales representative only sees the buyers he or she is associated with" where Nielsen suggests that the user selects which buyers are associate with him or her, which it is implicitly disclosed by*

using a selection mask, which is well known in the art as a filter that selectively includes or excludes certain values, a user selects different context regarding his or her needs);

Claim 29:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claim 25, as shown above. Furthermore, Nielsen as shown discloses the following limitation:

- *further comprising operating a service module to combine input received from the user of the first computer with data from the repository to generate data that goes into the business document (see at least Chapter 7, WebSphere Commerce Suite integration, 7.2.01 IBM Net.Data 3rd ¶; which teaches that "Net.Data interprets to create dynamic Web pages with customized content based on input from the user, the current state of your databases, other data sources" and "existing business logic" and Figures 73-74, which they illustrates where a user inputs data and generates a welcome page with related business document);*

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

20. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

21. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.

Art Unit: 4143

2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

22. Claims 9, 19 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nielsen in view of www.ebxml.org, News and Articles, ebXML - Enabling A Global Electronic Market, **United Nations and OASIS Join Forces to Produce Global XML Framework for Electronic Business**, Boston, MA, USA & Geneva, Switzerland, September 15, 1999, hereinafter "ebXML".

Claim 9:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claim 1, as shown above. Nielsen does not disclose the following limitation, but ebXML however, as shown does:

- *wherein the communication module is adapted to communicate via a protocol selected from the group of: ebXML messaging, SOAP, and WSDL (see at least 1st ¶: which teaches that "[t]he United Nations body for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) and the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) have joined forces to initiate a worldwide project to standardize XML business specifications" where ebXML suggests that ebXML specifications are standard in the exchange of electronic business data, such as SOAP, which is a simple XML-based protocol to let applications exchange information and WSDL is an XML-based language for describing Web services);*

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the B2B Collaborative Commerce with Sametime, QuickPlace and WebSphere Commerce Suite of Nielsen with the Global XML Framework for Electronic Business as taught by ebXML because "[t]o be effective for global business, it is vital that XML specifications are based on a common framework," explained Bill Smith (Sun Microsystems), president of OASIS. "That framework does not exist today and, consequently, there are many--often competing--efforts underway worldwide. This new Electronic Business XML Working Group will end the confusion and duplication of effort that currently exists." Furthermore, they developed

"a technical framework that" "enable XML to be utilized in a consistent manner for the exchange of all electronic business data" in order "to contribute to the growth of world trade". (ebXML, see at least 2nd and 3rd ¶).)

Claim 19:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claim 1, as shown above. Nielsen does not disclose the following limitation, but ebXML however, as shown does:

- *wherein the communication format comprises XML-based UBL (see at least 1st ¶: which teaches that "[t]he United Nations body for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) and the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) have joined forces to initiate a worldwide project to standardize XML business specifications" where XML-based UBL is a library of standard electronic XML business documents such as purchase orders and invoices which ebXML suggests that XML business specifications are standard in the exchange of electronic business data);*

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the B2B Collaborative Commerce with Sametime, QuickPlace and WebSphere Commerce Suite of Nielsen with the Global XML Framework for Electronic Business as taught by ebXML because as explained in Claim 9.

Claim 22:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claim 21, as shown above. Nielsen does not disclose the following limitation, but ebXML however, as shown does:

- *wherein communicating is supported by a communication module on the first computer and wherein the communication format comprises XML-based UBL (see at least 1st ¶: which teaches that "[t]he United Nations body for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) and the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) have joined forces to initiate a*

worldwide project to standardize XML business specifications" where XML-based UBL is a library of standard electronic XML business documents such as purchase orders and invoices which ebXML suggests that XML business specifications are standard in the exchange of electronic business data);

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the B2B Collaborative Commerce with Sametime, QuickPlace and WebSphere Commerce Suite of Nielsen with the Global XML Framework for Electronic Business as taught by ebXML because "[t]o be effective for global business, it is vital that XML specifications are based on a common framework," explained Bill Smith (Sun Microsystems), president of OASIS. "That framework does not exist today and, consequently, there are many--often competing--efforts underway worldwide. This new Electronic Business XML Working Group will end the confusion and duplication of effort that currently exists." Furthermore, they developed "a technical framework that" "enable XML to be utilized in a consistent manner for the exchange of all electronic business data" in order "to contribute to the growth of world trade". (ebXML, see at least 2nd and 3rd ¶).

23. Claims 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nielsen in view of **Official Notice**.

Claim 12:

Nielsen discloses the limitation of Claim 10, as shown above. Nielsen, as shown do not disclose the following limitation:

- *wherein the selection mask has pull-down options*

However, with regard to the limitations *wherein the selection mask has pull-down options*, the Examiner takes **Official Notice** that it is old and well known in information system and software developing environment and to one of the ordinary skill in the art to use a selection mask (e.g., a filter) with a pull-down options because is a user friendly and well know for example, when a user select the option File a pull-down menu appears. It is also called a *drop-down menu*,

where a menu of commands or options appears when a user selectss an item with a mouse. The item a user selects is generally at the top of the display screen, and the menu appears just below it, as if you had pulled it down. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the B2B Collaborative Commerce with Sametime, QuickPlace and WebSphere Commerce Suite of Nielsen with the Global XML Framework for Electronic Business as taught by ebXML with the old and well-known practice of pull-down options menu because it provides a more user friendly interface and will therefore increase consumer appeal.

Conclusion

24. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
- Bhaskaran et al (US 6,157,915) discloses a method and apparatus for collaboratively managing supply chains.
 - Berkowitz et al (US 5,392,400) discloses collaborative computing system using pseudo server process to allow input from different server processes individually and sequence number map for maintaining received data sequence.
 - Gupta et al (US 5,913,061) discloses modular application collaboration.
 - Smiga et al (US 6,029,171) discloses a method and apparatus for group action processing between users of a collaboration system.
 - Notani (US 6,119,149) discloses a system and process allowing collaboration within and between enterprises for optimal decision making.
 - Danielsen et al (US 7,082,430 B1) discloses a collaboration planning in a collaborative work tool architecture.

Art Unit: 4143

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to **Nadja Chong** whose telephone number is **570.270.3939**. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30am-5:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, **JAMES A. REAGAN** can be reached at **571.272.6710**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair> <<http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at **866.217.9197** (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to **571-273-8300**.

Hand delivered responses should be brought to the **United States Patent and Trademark Office Customer Service Window**:

Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314.

/Nadja Chong/ Examiner, Art Unit 4143

7 May 2008

/James A. Reagan/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4143